

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

300 HOPE ROAD

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Hope Highlands Elementary School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State law 42-46-5(a)(1) and contract and litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2). This meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, June 19th, and was postponed to this date.

Mr. Lupino, acting Chair, reconvened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The roll was called, and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – June 23, 2006

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the June 23, 2006 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

**II. Minutes of Previous Meetings – May 10, 2006; May 15, 2006;
May 22, 2006**

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the minutes of May 19, 2006; May 15, 2006; and May 22, 2006 be approved.

III. Public Acknowledgements / Communications

There were no public acknowledgements or communications.

IV. Chairperson Communications

There were no communications from the Chairman.

V. Superintendent Communications

Mrs. Ciarlo reported that the school district has just completed a very successful year. Today was the last day of school so now the moms, dads, and grandmothers and grandfathers have them for a few weeks.

She asked them to make it productive for the children by taking them to the library so they don't just watch television. The children need to have relaxation and go outside and exercise. With regard to the school year, the district has received some awards, and as soon as the budget is resolved, she hoped everyone could move on. The committee and administration appreciated the public coming to this meeting on a Friday night. They are very dedicated to getting the budget solved. The committee is working on a Friday night to make sure it gets done.

VI. School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Stycos reported that the Wellness Committee has finished its meetings. They have to technically put together the policy that will be presented to the School Committee at its July 12th work session. He will be distributing a summary of the major points in the policy soon

and then the actual policy as soon as he has it done.

VII. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no students who wished to speak on agenda or non-agenda items.

Valerie Shuele, 27 Farm Street – Mrs. Shuele stated that it was with great sadness, happiness, and excitement that she wanted to recognize that this is Mrs. Ciarlo’s last School Committee meeting. It is very fitting that the library media center is being named in her honor. Her commitment and dedication to literacy is amazing. On behalf of all those kids and their parents who now have literate kids, she said thank you. No greater gift can be given to the children on the road to success. She has left a mark on the Cranston Public Schools and Cranston children as well as families. She thanked Mrs. Ciarlo and told her she would be missed. She is happy and excited for Mrs. Ciarlo. She told Mrs. Ciarlo to enjoy her retirement and thanked her for leaving everyone with such a great foundation to build on. Everyone loves her.

Mrs. Shuele also congratulated Mr. Chun. Being a parent of two children who love science, she knows the value of a great science teacher, a science teacher who brings science to life and makes it exciting.

Ginger Bazin, 125 Belmont Road – Mrs. Bazin stated that she wished to speak on the elementary library secretaries. She commented that she is a resident of Cranston and a library media specialist at Glen Hills and Stone Hill Schools. She urged the committee to support the elementary library secretaries. Each elementary school child can borrow at least one library book per week because of the work of the library secretaries. These technically trained secretaries manage the circulation of library materials; the databases and the multi-media collections while the librarians teach classes and engage in other professional responsibilities. Eliminating the secretarial positions would be extremely detrimental to the library program. Also, eliminating the secretaries would negatively impact access to reading materials for every elementary school child on a regular basis. This direct impact on each and every student is a big concern. She urged the committee to retain these positions.

Frank Flynn, CTA President, 176 Mayfield Avenue – He stated that it was significant that as President of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance he acknowledge Catherine Ciarlo's last School Committee meeting as

Superintendent. As he has remarked in the past few weeks, the district has been privileged to have her as the Superintendent, and the most significant thing among all her wonderful achievements is that she built a coalition of all parties in the City of Cranston that had the children's interests in mind, and she was wonderful at that. He is looking forward to her legacy being that the district can continue on that vein.

Secondly, he wished to speak on Resolution No. 06-6-20 which is the recommendation to appoint several athletic coaches. His particular concern is not all the people on this agenda item, but the head basketball coach at Cranston East. It is not a personal matter about the man that is being appointed. He is probably a wonderful man and a wonderful coach. He has no animosity toward him, but he does have some grave reservations about the process and about an understanding they had based on a policy that the committee adopted one year ago this week. On June 20, 2005, after much discussion and a tabled resolution, where they sat together in a room, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Votto, and he, came to a gentlemen's agreement as to the best way to proceed with athletic coaches. After several months of committee work and some recommendations, they developed this policy. It was voted on by the Cranston School Committee, and the first paragraph of that athletic coach policy which is policy No. 4112.5 states: "Coaching vacancies will be adequately posted in each building by the Superintendent in accordance with currently established policies and procedures. In the absence of

qualified internal candidates, positions will be advertised in the local newspaper.” Mr. Flynn went on to say that the policy was violated. It was advertised in the newspaper. They had several internal candidates who applied who had experience in that program

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in that building, and they weren’t given the opportunity to interview prior to them being determined as not suitable candidates. This is wrong, and it is a clear violation. The union has already filed a grievance and intends to go to arbitration with it. Mr. Palumbo and he had the conversation in that room, and he said that this was not an attempt to eliminate Cranston teachers from having opportunities for these coaching positions, and this is clearly what was done here. Mr. Monegan who is going to be appointed is probably a wonderful coach, but he has two young coaches now that will be dispirited as well as many others. They will spend five or six years in a part-time position. They are school department employees who work with the children and follow them. The message to them is that they can be assistant coaches all they want, but Cranston is going to look outside the district and not give them the opportunity to become head coaches in this city. That is the wrong message, and it is unfair to them and all the young teachers and coaches who aspire to be head coaches in this city.

Lastly, Mr. Flynn commented that there is the possibility of cutting

several teacher assistant programs, and he wished to stipulate that these people perform a vital role in the schools regarding safety of the students. They may eliminate some of the building teacher assistants at some of the schools that have 270 or fewer students, and that means a ratio of 135 students to 1 teacher assistant in a school that has two lunches. He felt that this was an unsafe ratio, and the committee should revisit this. He knows that the committee has some very difficult cuts to make, but five teacher assistants are still on layoff from two years ago who haven't been recalled. There are approximately twenty teachers who are on layoff and face not being recalled. It is unfair to go that deep in his bargaining unit without looking at some other bargaining units to eliminate some positions.

Chris Tribelli, 26 Scott Street – Mr. Tribelli stated that he wished to speak about junior high sports. He has just finished his twenty-seventh year coaching in Cranston. He loves the school system and has had some great athletes, but he has seen a drastic reduction in numbers and quality of athletes coming up from the loss of junior high sports. Cranston West just won the states, and fortunately for them, even though they didn't have junior high wrestling, they had a terrific intramural program with Dick Caldarone running it; and they will start to see those effects now. He has coached some great student athletes who have gone to some renowned schools. He had one boy who got into Harvard because of wrestling and two boys got into Brown because of wrestling. Mr.

Lupino noted that they didn't get into these schools just because of wrestling. Mr. Tribelli noted that when they went to college they didn't further their wrestling career. The Harvard wrestling coach told his athlete that most class valedictorians are not accepted into Harvard, but if he puts him on his list, he had better than a 50-50 shot of getting in, and that is why he got into Harvard because he was put on the coach's list. It takes away from their learning ability at an early age. He has started to lose some of the students. His numbers have gone way down over the past two years. Sports teach the boys how to compete, not just about the sport of wrestling.

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Any sport will teach them how to compete for jobs in the work force which is what they are going to be doing the rest of their lives. They have to learn, whether they win or lose today, they have to start working hard again tomorrow. By cutting sports at an early age, the school department is starting to see the impact. He pleaded with the School Committee to take a hard look at it and to keep junior high sports because it is very beneficial to the students and it gives them a competitive edge for schools.

Mark Lucas, 28 Riverfarm Road – He wished to speak on Resolution No. 06-6-26. He indicated that it is the end of a budget season, and it looks like the district is faced with another significant shortfall. Unfortunately, this could have been avoided if more fiscal restraint

could have been shown during the contracting process with the teachers as well as subsequent contracts that were adopted by the School Committee. Perhaps if the committee had adopted just a handful of the cost savings that were outlined in the school system audit, most of this situation could have been avoided. He would never want to see another situation where there is a budget shortfall. It is deplorable that schools are being closed, that teaching positions are being cut, teacher aides, sports, etc. are coming under the budget knife. He knows the committee members are committed to what they do. They spend a significant amount of time reviewing a tremendous amount of paper work, going through a lot of discussion, and he appreciates what they do. However, he is having a difficult time fathoming why and how this comes to be year after year after year. He is not going to buy that it is because the City Council doesn't give the school district enough money. There are a lot of folks who think this way as well. It is not too late to right this ship. The committee has done a lot of good things along the way, and it hates to see it overshadowed with some bad things happening. Do the right thing by the taxpayers, and they will remember that. They will be most happy when there are no cuts to this school system.

Maureen Morgan, 165 Pawtuxet Avenue – Ms. Morgan stated that she spoke at the last meeting, and Mr. Scherza made it clear to her that this is a spending organization; this is not one that provides income or looks for ways to have money come in. She asked if this was true. Mr. Scherza responded that the school district is not the revenue

body for the City. The appropriating entity is the City Council to the school district. The school district does have sources of revenue, but it is primarily a service and social service entity. Ms. Morgan stated that the committee has to find ways to stop spending. They have to deal with the budget with what the City gives them, what the State gives them, and what the federal government gives them. She asked if she was correct in her understanding. Mr. Scherza responded that it is their job as superintendents, administrators, and educators to do first and foremost what is the best thing for the children of this community. Ms. Morgan indicated that having a \$2.4 million shortfall is not a good thing. She was curious as to why the construction school is not the first to go. Mr. Lupino asked Ms. Morgan to state her contentions. He noted that this was not a question-and-answer period. This is a statement for public opinion. She stated that she was curious as to why the construction school wasn't the first to go.

As a

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homeowner, she understands what a budget is. She understands how the committee has to work within the budget they have to get the things they need. The construction school in relation to her life seems like a Hummer limousine with a Lexus on top parked in the driveway that she can't afford; but it is there; it services a limited amount of people, and it lays waste to a lot more people. With regard to middle school sports, it is showing up as a conflict going on to

high school. She felt the construction school should go. When dealing with teachers, the last one in should be the first one out, and it should be the same with the schools.

VIII. Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

Mr. Lupino noted that the following resolutions appear under the Consent Agenda: No.'s 06-6-12, 06-6-14, 06-6-15 (with addendum), 06-6-16, 06-6-17, 06-6-18, 06-6-19, 06-6-21, 06-6-22, 06-6-23, 06-6-24 (with addendum), 06-6-25, 06-6-27, 06-6-28, and 06-6-29.

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 06-6-12 - RESOLVED, that Policy No. 3172, Financial Impact Analysis, Collective Bargaining Agreements, as amended, be approved for second and final reading.

NO. 06-6-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified personnel be recalled from termination, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Superintendent notify those teachers of the Committee's actions.

NO. 06-6-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2006-2007 school year:

Kathleen Durigan, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Providence College, B.A.

Experience – Student Teacher

Certification – Secondary Spanish

Assignment – Hugh B. Bain Middle School, Spanish, .6 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 5, 2006

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 11511012 512100

Lisa Connell, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – University of Rhode Island, B.S.

Experience – Cranston Public Schools' Substitute

Certification – Early Childhood, PK-12

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Assignment – Orchard Farms School/Glen Hills School, Kindergarten, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 5, 2006

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 112810112 512100 / 13610112 512100

Jean-Nicole Almon, salary to be at the first step plus Masters of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Providence College, B.A.; University of Maryland, M.A.

Experience – Six-month practicum in speech-language therapy

Certification – Speech-Language Pathology (Pending)

Assignment – Itinerant, Speech Pathologist, .7 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 5, 2006

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14732021 512100

Sheri Ann Schiappa, salary to be at the sixth step plus Masters of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, B.A.; M.A.

Experience – Scituate School Department, Five Years

Certification – Professional School Psychologist, Grades PK-12

Assignment – Itinerant, Psychologist, .4 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 5, 2006

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 15136413 513700

NO. 06-6-16 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Madonna Thompson Secondary English

Gail O'Brien Elementary

Leona Brown Elementary

Laura Zinno Elementary

Alysha Campagnone Elementary

Carissa D'Agostino Middle Mathematics

Gregory Decoteaux Secondary Physics

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Konstantina Sampalis Early Childhood

Jessica Signore Health and Physical Education

Charlene Blanchette Elementary

NO. 06-6-17 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School

Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Diane Brannon, Teacher

Elementary Guidance

Effective Dates: September 2006 to September 2007

Caylen Macera, Teacher

Reading Specialist

Effective Dates: September 2006 to September 2007

NO. 06-6-18 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Sharon Albert, Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2006

NO. 06-6-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Deborah Pierini, Teacher

Guidance

Effective Date: May 23, 2006

Heather Hagen-Archer, Teacher
Family & Consumer Science
Effective Date: August 31, 2006

NO. 06-6-21 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Corinne Roy, GED Specialist
Adult Education Program
Effective Date of Employment: June 5, 2006
Fiscal Note: 58062151 515100

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Kimberly Lebrun, Program Manager
Bain + 2 (21st Century Program)
Effective Date of Employment: June 5, 2006
Fiscal Note: 53115113 511300

Krystal Smith, Program Supervisor
Bain + 2 (21st Century Program)
Effective Date of Employment: July 1, 2006
Fiscal Note: 53115150 515000

Elena Schiappa, Part-time Custodian
Eden Park School

Effective Date of Employment: June 26, 2006

Fiscal Note: 11847481 518200

NO. 06-6-22 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Crystal Iacobucci

Lisa Shedlock

NO. 06-6-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XVI of the Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance on behalf of the Teachers' Assistant/Bus Aide Unit:

Cheryl Palombo, Teacher Assistant

Garden City School

Effective Dates: September 2006 – December 2007

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NO. 06-6-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Samantha Walters, Bus Monitor

Transportation

Effective Date: May 22, 2006

Adam Park, Custodian

Plant

Effective Date: June 14, 2006

Sherry Robitaille, Three-hour Food Service

Food Service

Effective Date: June 1, 2006

Ann Pilderian, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date: June 7, 2006

NO. 06-6-25 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, named non-certified staff members be laid off from their respective positions due to budgetary reasons.

NO. 06-6-27 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Maps and Globes in the amount of \$2,027.50. No purchases will be

made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 13

Number of bids received 7

Math Manipulatives in the amount of \$4,408.80. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 31

Number of bids received 16

Office Supplies in the amount of \$10,722.55. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 41

Number of bids received 13

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Music Supplies in the amount of \$5,322.21. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 39

Number of bids received 16

**Family and Consumer Science Supplies in the amount of \$11,826.52.
No purchases will be made until funds become available.**

Number of bids issued 62

Number of bids received 14

**Audio Visual Supplies in the amount of \$14,499.01. No purchases will
be made until funds become available.**

Number of bids issued 54

Number of bids received 25

**Science Supplies in the amount of \$29,106.07. No purchases will be
made until funds become available. (\$4,448.95 is the amount that
must be purchased from current- year funds to meet OSHA
requirements.)**

Number of bids issued 36

Number of bids received 18

**Textbooks (from non-publishing companies) in the amount of
\$7,535.33. No purchases will be made until funds become available.**

Number of bids issued 15

Number of bids received 7

Energy Education Conservation in the proposed savings amount of

\$3,594,149 over seven years awarded to EEI.

Number of bids issued 3

Number of bids received 1

Scoring Tables for Cranston East in the amount of \$3,260. Funding provided through Cranston East.

Number of bids issued 4

Number of bids received 1

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Physical Education Supplies in the amount of \$7,405.41. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 28

Number of bids received 17

Art Supplies in the amount of \$48,177.77. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 39

Number of bids received 22

Technology Education Supplies in the amount of \$29,126.74. No purchases will be made until funds become available.

Number of bids issued 99

Number of bids received 40

Physical Therapy awarded to Lepre Physical Therapy for one year at the following rates: RPT - \$60.00; PTA - \$40.00

Number of bids issued 5

Number of bids received 2

**NO. 06-6-28 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:
(Fund 3)**

Cafeteria Supplies in the amount of \$354,234.72 to be used during the period of July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

Number of bids issued 15

Number of bids received 7

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 06-6-29 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following Field Trip of Long Duration be

authorized:

Maj. USA Senior Army Instructor Richard M. Cournoyer and First Sergeant Joseph Fratiello, JROTC Instructors at Cranston High School East, and twenty students to attend and participate in the annual Army JROTC Summer Camp at Camp Varnum, Narragansett and Camp Fogarty, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, from June 27, 2006 through June 29, 2006.

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Moved by Mr. Palumbo, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.

IX. Action Calendar / Action Agenda

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-5 – Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo has dedicated forty-six years to the children of Cranston Public Schools as a teacher, Director of Reading and Testing Services, Executive Director of Curriculum, Director of Staff Development, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent of Schools, and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo has provided strong and dedicated

leadership to the Cranston Public Schools for the last nine years as Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools, and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo has brought honor and distinction to the education profession and the City of Cranston, and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo is looked upon as a leader by her fellow peers and was chosen by them as the Rhode Island School Superintendent of the Year for 2005, and named as a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year for 2005,

Be it RESOLVED that in honor of her long and dedicated service to the youth of the City of Cranston and the Cranston Public Schools, upon her official retirement as Superintendent on June 30, 2006, she be designated Superintendent Emeritus by the Cranston School Committee, and

Be it further RESOLVED that Catherine M. Ciarlo receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Archetto that these Resolutions be adopted.

Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to Mrs. Ciarlo. A photograph was taken.

The School Committee presented a clock to Mrs. Ciarlo on behalf of the committee and all the students who have walked through the doors of Cranston Public Schools.

Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that it has been a pleasure and honor to work for Cranston Public Schools and that it has always been fun. She thanked everyone and noted that it has been a privilege and honor to serve Cranston Public Schools.

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This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-6 - Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo has served the Cranston school community as a classroom teacher, Director of Reading and Testing Services, Director of Staff Development, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools, and Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools over her forty-six year career, and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo began her forty-six year career in 1960 with the Cranston Public Schools as an elementary school teacher and remained in that position until 1967; from 1967 through 1985, she worked as the Director of Reading and Testing Services, K-12; in 1985

Catherine M. Ciarlo was appointed the Executive Director of Curriculum, K-12, and the Director of Staff Development, K-12. She remained in those positions for seven years until 1992. From 1992 to 1997, Catherine was appointed by the Cranston School Committee to serve as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools and served in that position until June 30, 1997. From July 1, 1997 to the present, Catherine M. Ciarlo has served as the CEO of the Cranston school community servicing over 11,000 students each year and approximately 2,000 staff and support members; and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo brought honor and recognition to Cranston Public Schools through her involvement in a number of professional and civic organizations, many of which she served with distinction and in leadership roles to include: the Rhode Island Association of School Administrators; the National Council of Teachers of English; the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; the Cranston

Association of School Administrators; the Governor's Task Force on Elementary and Secondary Educational Finance; and the Rhode Island Association of School Superintendents; and

Whereas, in addition to her educational role and responsibility to the Cranston Public Schools, Catherine M. Ciarlo also served as an adjunct faculty member in the Providence College Graduate School of Education from 1985 to the present; and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo holds Life Professional Certifications as Superintendent of Schools, PK-12, Reading Consultant Supervisor, PK-12, Reading Teacher Specialist, PK-12, Teacher of Elementary Grades, K-6, and Middle School Social Studies Endorsement, 7-8; and

Whereas, Catherine M. Ciarlo also participated in a myriad of community organizations to include: Phi Delta Kappa; Delta Kappa Gamma, Association of Leading Women Educators; Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society; Rhode Island Honor Society; Rotary

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International; Cranston Hall of Fame Selection Committee; and the Rhode Island Leadership Academy Aspiring Superintendents,

Be it RESOLVED that the newly constructed Library Media Center at Cranston High School East be named the Catherine M. Ciarlo Library Media Center and that an appropriate plaque be placed at the site to memorialize and honor Catherine for her commitment and dedication to the children of Cranston.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino read the Resolution and presented it to Mrs. Ciarlo. A

photograph was taken.

Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that she was lost for words and thanked the committee.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-7 - Whereas, Howard Chun, a science teacher at Cranston High School East for the past eleven years, has expanded the Science Department to include a physics II class that completes astronomical research via the National Optical Astronomical Observatories, and

Whereas, because Howard has studied advanced physics and math at Stanford University and has also designed satellites, he knows the value of science put into action. His students design roller coasters to learn about energy. They observe the moon for an entire semester and then relay their findings via poem, graphic novel, play or lab report, and

Whereas, the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence recognizes public or private school educators in grades K-12 who have made extraordinary science teaching contributions and who have had a measurable impact on the lives of their students, and

Whereas, the Amgen Award for Science Teaching judges have

determined that

Howard is a teacher who is among the very best science educators in this region; he tops the charts in classroom creativity of teaching method; effectiveness in the classroom; motivational ability; instructional ability; and mastery of subject matter,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee congratulate Howard Chun for this most prestigious award, for his outstanding contributions to science education, and for the honor he has brought to himself and to Cranston Public Schools, and

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Be it further RESOLVED that Howard receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos read the Resolution and presented it to Howard. A photograph was taken.

Mr. Stycos said that he knows from his daughter being in Mr. Chun's

class that he certainly deserves this award. He is a very good teacher; he is a violinist as well as a good cook. He is a renaissance man, and the Cranston Public Schools is very lucky to have him here teaching physics to the students.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Lupino asked those people who had been appointed to stand and be recognized.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-8 - Whereas, in competition with ten high schools throughout the state, eighty-seven students from the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center at Cranston High School West have distinguished themselves at the recent Rhode Island State DECA Competition by winning seventy-one awards, and in the twenty-two events in which students were entered, they were awarded eighteen 1st Place, seven 2nd Place, and ten 3rd Place finishes, and

Whereas, the overall winners are:

Adriana Briones 1st Place International Business Plan

Tyler Giammarco 1st Place International Business Plan

Carrie Fraser 1st Place International Business Plan

Alisa Langley 1st Place Entrepreneurship Written

Tiffany Anderson 1st Place Entrepreneurship Written

Megan Allaire 1st Place Entrepreneurship Written

Scott Cote 1st Place Entrepreneurship Participating-Independent

Jason Palmer 1st Place Entrepreneurship Participating-Franchise

Vanny Chheng 1st Place E-Commerce Business Plan

Cassandra Baker 1st Place General Marketing Research Event

Briana Quinn 1st Place General Marketing Research Event

Sergio Orlando 1st Place Business and Financial Services Research

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Matt Thomas 1st Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Corey Nicholls 1st Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Evan Lancia 1st Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Leigh Smith 1st Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Amanda Voccola 1st Place Learn and Earn Project

Michaela Menard 1st Place Learn and Earn Project

Jericka Fernandez 1st Place Public Relations Project

Tonisha Pierre 1st Place Public Relations Project

Medgine Pierre-Louis 1st Place Public Relations Project

Danielle Mott 1st Place Creative Marketing Project

Jaime Magno 1st Place Creative Marketing Project

Gianna Labbadia 1st Place Fashion Promotion Plan

Mia Lonardo 1st Place Advertising Campaign

Lisa Vesikov 1st Place Advertising Campaign

Kylia Giampietro 1st Place Technical Sales Event

Kayleigh Periera 1st Place Food Marketing Management Event

Kelly-May Barber 1st Place Retail Merchandising Management Event

Jasmyn Sullivan 1st Place Apparel and Accessories Management Event

Shayna Matzner 2nd Place Civic Consciousness Project

Kyle Marnane 2nd Place Civic Consciousness Project

Tiffany Sinapi 2nd Place Civic Consciousness Project

Jessica Tomaselli 2nd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Jennifer Keogh 2nd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Samantha Pezza 2nd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Nathan Podbros 2nd Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Gianna Vessella 2nd Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Morgan Patricio 2nd Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Michael Petrocelli 2nd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Michael Ricci 2nd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Joseph Cerep 2nd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Cheri Melvin 2nd Place General Marketing Research Event

Audry Burniston 2nd Place General Marketing Research Event

Jon Moffit 2nd Place General Marketing Research Event

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Luchi Wei 2nd Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Justin McKenney 2nd Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Lorenzo Lonardo 2nd Place Advertising Campaign

Robert Branch 2nd Place Advertising Campaign

Edwin Morales 2nd Place Advertising Campaign

Aleksandra Alekhina 3rd Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Chris O'Brien 3rd Place Hospitality and Recreation Research Event

Zach Okolowicz 3rd Place General Marketing Research Event

Christine Passet 3rd Place General Marketing Research Event

Talia Sinapi 3rd Place General Marketing Research Event

Randall Rivera 3rd Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Chris Famiglietti 3rd Place Retail Marketing Research Event

Jessica Soccio 3rd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Elizabeth Saucedo 3rd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Kim Roberts 3rd Place Business and Financial Services Research

Katrina Pomoranski 3rd Place Sports and Entertainment Team Event

Michael Baker 3rd Place Sports and Entertainment Team Event

Crystal Hidalgo 3rd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Lindsey Ramirez 3rd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Marcia Garcia 3rd Place Entrepreneurship Written

Davina Ohanesian 3rd Place Entrepreneurship-Participating-Independent

Dan Lovejoy 3rd Place Advertising Campaign

Keith Murray 3rd Place Advertising Campaign

Isabel Dueri 3rd Place Restaurant and Food Service Event

Alicia Hansen 3rd Place Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing Event

Whereas, fifty students from the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center qualified to represent the State of Rhode Island at the National DECA Competitions in Dallas, Texas, April 28, 2006 through May 3, 2006,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee extend its congratulations to all of these students for their exceptional accomplishments and to their teachers, Mr. Richard Abruzzini and Mrs. Janis McGuirl, and that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Archetto that this Resolution be adopted.

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Mr. Archetto read the Resolution and presented it to the students.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-9 - Whereas, Sarina Benton has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the Residential Construction Program at the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center for the last two years, and

Whereas, Sarina has excelled both personally and scholastically and has been recognized by the National Grid with the National Grid Technical School Scholarship Award in the amount of \$1,000 for young women pursuing technical careers, and

Whereas, Sarina is the first recipient of this scholarship award,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee extend their congratulations to Sarina; her teacher, Mr. William Carcieri; technical assistant Mr. Harold Winstanley; Mr. Paul Wolff, Educational Liaison for Conservation Services Group; and Mrs. Lynda Wagner, Director of the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center, and that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Traficante read the Resolution and presented it to Sarina. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-10 - Whereas, Cranston High School West theater students under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Vitulli, won top honors at the Rhode Island Drama Festival held in April, and

Whereas, Bacon, the bilingual fable successfully presented at Cranston High School West in March, was the Festival's winning performance among entries from high schools across Rhode Island, and

Whereas, Mrs. Vitulli received special honors for her contributions to educational theater over the past ten years, and

Whereas, as a result of winning the state Drama Festival, the West theater students were invited to attend the New England Drama Festival held in New Hampshire in late April,

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Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee congratulate

Mrs. Vitulli and the following student winners for their hard work and dedication to theater and that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee:

Individual Acting Awards with The Entire Cast Receiving an Ensemble Award

Kyle Boulay Janel Hernandez Francesca Savella Alex Whitney

Kristina Drager Scenic Design

Kelly Frappier Costume and Mask Design

Tyler Perry Technical Direction and Lighting Design

Dana Treglia Outstanding Senior Tech Award

Design Awards

Kristina Drager Kelly Frappier Grant Rutter Tyler Perry

Stage Management

Cassie Clarke Jenn Keogh Dana Treglia

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to the students. A photograph was taken.

Mr. Lupino noted that he had the good fortune to see this play. He

encouraged his colleagues to see it. The students did an incredible job, and they deserved to win.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-6-11 - Whereas, the Office of the General Treasurer sponsors the Annual High School Business Award Program, and

Whereas, this program promotes academic excellence and an understanding of the business community by recognizing students who excel in business studies, and

Whereas, the following students attained a B+ average or equivalent accumulated over grades 9, 10, 11, and the first semester of grade 12 and have demonstrated leadership potential for future success in the business world and were the recipients of the General Treasurer's Award at the Rhode Island State House on May 15th:

Kyle Pirolli Cranston High School East

David Ricci Cranston High School West

Isabel Dueri Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

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Be it RESOLVED that they be congratulated by the Cranston School

Committee for their hard work and for the honor they have brought to themselves and Cranston Public Schools, and

Be it further RESOLVED that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo read the Resolution and presented it to the students. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 06-6-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal, Cranston High School East, be approved.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution recommends the appointment of an Assistant Principal for Cranston High School East. It was her

pleasure to recommend Scott Bar for the Assistant Principal position. His education started in 1985 with a BA from the University of Rhode Island; in 1990 he received his MAT in history from Rhode Island College; and in 2003 received his Secondary Administration Certificate from Providence College. He has taught as an adjunct professor at Rhode Island College. He is presently working as a mentor teacher at Brown University in the Student Teacher Program and is the Social Studies Department Chair at Classical High School. He is an enthusiastic, capable individual who she believes will be just the right person to join the team at Cranston High School East. Members of his family graduated from Cranston High School East, and this says much for the future. It was Mrs. Ciarlo's pleasure to recommend Scott Barr to the committee without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-6-20 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:

William Monigan, Head Boys' Basketball, Cranston High School East

Step – 7

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

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**Experience – Head Coach, Shea High School; Assistant Coach, CCRI
Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid
Certified**

**Carmine Coneconte, Head Girls' Basketball, Cranston High School
West**

Step – 7

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

**Experience – Associate Head Women's Basketball Coach, Johnson &
Wales University; Head Girls' Basketball Coach, Narragansett High
School**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid
Certified**

**Cory Capirchio, Head Freshmen Football, Cranston High School West
Step – 4**

Class – D

Playing Competition – High School and College

**Experience – Volunteer Assistant, Cranston High School West
Football Program**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid
Certified**

Isaiah McDaniel, Head Freshmen Football, Cranston High School East

Step – 1

Class – D

Playing Competition – High School; RI All Star Team

Experience – Volunteer Assistant, Cranston Football Program

Certification - Pending

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino noted that there was some discussion during the public speaking portion regarding this Resolution.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that the committee should go forward with the appointment as recommended.

Ms. Iannazzi asked Mr. Traficante, the Athletic Director, to explain the process that was used in this particular coaching interview and if it was different from any of the other processes that have been used for other appointments.

**Mr. Traficante repeated the language that Mr. Flynn used which said:
Paragraph 1: “Coaching vacancies will be adequately posted in each building by the Superintendent in accordance with the currently established posting policy and procedures. In the absence of qualified internal candidates, positions will be advertised in the local newspaper.” Paragraph 2: Positions under this article shall be filled**

on the basis of the

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best-qualified person available. Criteria to determine qualifications will include knowledge, playing experience, and coaching experience in the particular support.

Mr. Traficante went on to explain that two internal candidates applied.

They were both interviewed during the process. This was for a Division I head coaching position at Cranston East. Neither gentlemen involved has ever been a head coach of a basketball program. They served as a freshman coach and JV coach but never head coach. He didn't think he could stand up in front of the committee and unequivocally say that both those gentlemen are qualified to be a head coach. They posted the job and both those candidates were involved in the interview process. Where he and Mr. Flynn tend to disagree is with the word "qualified." Just because one coaches doesn't make that person qualified to be a head coach. He is concluding his fifth year as athletic director, and he interviewed for forty-six positions in five years for middle school to high school. This is only the second time that the district has hired a candidate from the outside over a teacher. This is not a common practice. This is the second time in forty-six interviews that they went with an outside candidate over a teacher. They tend to disagree on what the

word qualified means. Because someone has served as a the freshmen coach and the JV coach, he can't say that person is qualified to be a head coach. That is why they went ahead and posted the job. They were both given the opportunity to interview for the job, and they scored the interview. The results are available to the committee.

Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Flynn if he agreed that the crux of the argument is over who is qualified because what he heard from Mr. Flynn is that the procedure wasn't followed. Mr. Flynn responded that these people had experience. One of them is a head coach in the system in another sport. To say that the person doesn't have the qualities or characteristics to be a head coach is not necessarily accurate. They have experience; they have been evaluated in the capacity that they have been within this system successfully. They have recommendations that are extremely positive from the current head coach who is leaving to take an opportunity somewhere else. He doesn't know if one would know they were qualified if they didn't sit down and have those discussions and have the interviews first before deciding to bring in the person the district wanted in the first place. The grievance going forward is that the process was violated, and the end result is what one would expect when the process is violated in the first place.

Ms. Iannazzi asked if they were interviewed, and Mr. Flynn said that they were interviewed; but they should have been interviewed first and then determined that they weren't qualified for this position.

They weren't determined that they weren't qualified; they were put in the same pool as everyone else as teachers in the system. This is Interscholastic League Sports. It is Cranston High School East basketball. It is not CLCF where they can get someone from anywhere to coach. These are school jobs; they are within the system, and it should be preferenced to people who are qualified within the system. If there are no qualified candidates, then go out and get the

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best person available from the pool of candidates that are there. This is a teaching job. One of the candidates works in that building. He couldn't emphasize how important that is when the district can get that match up because of the other intangible things needed to be done in order to run a successful program. If a coach is in the district or in the school, it makes it much easier to be successful.

Ms. Iannazzi pointed out that she didn't vote for the policy when the committee enacted it because of the contract ambiguities.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to amend this Resolution to remove the name of William Monigan from this agenda.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

Ms. Iannazzi repeated that Mr. Traficante gave her the opportunity to read the interview file, and she would like to do so before voting on this gentleman.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Stycos, Mr. Traficante, and Mr. Palumbo in favor; Mrs. Greifer and Mr. Lupino were opposed.

This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution now reads:

NO. 06-6-20 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:

Carmine Coneconte, Head Girls' Basketball, Cranston High School West

Step – 7

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Associate Head Women's Basketball Coach, Johnson & Wales University; Head Girls' Basketball Coach, Narragansett High School

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Cory Capirchio, Head Freshmen Football, Cranston High School West

Step – 4

Class – D

Playing Competition – High School and College

Experience – Volunteer Assistant, Cranston High School West Football Program

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

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Isaiah McDaniel, Head Freshmen Football, Cranston High School East

Step – 1

Class – D

Playing Competition – High School; RI All Star Team

Experience – Volunteer Assistant, Cranston Football Program

Certification - Pending

BUSINESS

NO.06-6-26 - RESOLVED, the final budget for the 2006-2007 school

year as recommended by the Superintendent be approved as submitted.

Mr. Archetto requested a five-minute recess at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Lupino reconvened the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Traficante stated that the committee had given a number of items to Mr. Balducci for him to investigate to come up with some numbers. He asked that the Chair call on Mr. Balducci to go through his roster of cuts that he is proposing to the School Committee.

Mr. Balducci noted to the committee that each of them had a packet of questions asked by the committee and the answers to those questions. In addition, the packet contained a reconciliation worksheet he prepared showing the initial gap of \$2.5 million and the projected savings, whether there are or aren't any. Mr. Lupino indicated that he asked a question at the last meeting that he did not see on the list. He added that he asked a question concerning the re-assignment of central administration personnel. There was a position supposedly removed from CASA. There were some principalships filled by less experienced personnel. Mr. Balducci responded that the answer was incorporated in one of the responses.

He believed it was question No. 5. Mr. Lupino remarked that the question was on the actual consolidations that the committee did do. Some principals were moved around, and there were principals with years of experience; and they were replaced with principals with less experience. A principal was re-assigned, and removed a CASA position. He believed she was going back into the classroom. He asked the figure for these changes. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that Mr. Balducci was doing the money end of it. As far as the organization of the chart, that is the duty of the Superintendent. She thought it was only fair that the new Superintendent be able to do the Organizational Chart, and Mr. Scherza intends to present that chart at the July School Committee Work Session. Mr. Scherza added that he had already asked to have it placed on the July 12th Work Session agenda.

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Mr. Lupino referred to the budget reconciliation sheet and asked where question No. 5 was answered. Mr. Balducci indicated that each response had a corresponding number to the question. Mr. Lupino noted that it did not show any compacting of the principals. Mrs. Ciarlo said that this is incorporated in another question and answer. Mr. Balducci responded that administration is looking to use those savings to support a position that is needed in the district next year,

the ESL Coordinator position, which was eliminated. Come to find out, the district may need a similar position next year so they are looking to take the savings from the compacting of the principal positions and use it toward funding of the ESL Coordinator's position. That is why it is not showing up on this particular cut list.

Mr. Balducci referred the committee back to the reconciliation worksheet. He noted that there are dollar figures assigned to each of the questions. He indicated that the committee had asked administration to look at the anticipated savings using Horton School for other uses. When the original proposal was presented to the committee, administration had an estimate of anywhere between \$85,000 and \$235,000 depending on how quickly that program can get up and running. He took the conservative of \$85,320 until he gets a better handle on when the program will be up and running, whether it be both programs at once or whether it be phased in.

Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Laliberte for a breakdown as to what the \$85,000 represents. Mr. Laliberte responded that the committee had a copy of the Horton Plan, and it gives a breakdown of placing two integrated pre-schools at Horton, what would be taken in tuition, as well as what would be saved by bringing either children back or preventing children from leaving the system and placing them in a private pre-school situation. In doing that in savings and revenue, the district would save approximately \$162,000 if they opened both integrated pre-schools. By moving the entire Special Services Center

to Horton School, that would free up the Special Services building; and that would allow the district to begin bringing back some of the children currently who have behavior and emotional needs into the system which costs between \$35,000 to \$50,000 for these children to leave the system. By bringing them back, there would be a savings. Even when subtracting the cost of the teachers and teacher assistants needed for that program, the range of savings comes between \$85,000 to \$235,000.

Mr. Stycos asked if the \$85,000 is the conservative estimate of savings just on the pre-Kindergarten program or on both the pre-Kindergarten Program and the program that is being proposed for the Special Services building. Mr. Laliberte responded that it would be on both. They would start with one integrated pre-school and get that off and running before opening the second integrated pre-school.

The same thing would be true with bringing children back or preventing them from going out who have behavioral or emotional issues and bringing that program up. That will take a little more time to get off the ground. They already have and would like to have ready one integrated pre-school possibly opening up in September. This would be about \$80,000. Mr. Stycos

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stated that the answer to question No. 20 talks about the Special Services Program and used the figure for budget savings of

approximately \$127,000. He asked if the reflection of these two programs together would be \$80,000 plus \$127,000 making \$200,000. Mr. Laliberte responded that if everything was up and running and running both programs with five special education students in the integrated pre-school and ten general education students in two integrated programs and then had two special education classes up and running with ten special education students in each program, if all that was in place, then there would be a larger profit. Mr. Stycos asked if the \$85,000 figure assumes that the district won't be able to do anything more that they have already set because the \$80,000 is arranged with the one pre-school program. He asked if they should be taking part of the \$127,000 as a projection that they will be able to accomplish. Mr. Laliberte said that right now they have two students that they can bring back who are currently placed in an integrated private pre-school. He knows from experience that it appears when they advertise for people to pay to have their children come to the pre-school it seems to be the people located in the area who want that pre-school. They went from four parents at Stone Hill School to eighteen that they have right now. It is based on twenty, and they have completed all the participation that they could have, and they need three more special education children in order to realize the full profit. Mr. Stycos remarked that the full profit would be the \$80,000. Right now the district is setting up a program to bring two students back and to gain the tuitions of the other kids. Mr. Laliberte added that over the summer the district will gain more pre-schoolers who will need placement. Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Laliberte how he arrived at

\$85,000, and Mr. Laliberte referred him to the Horton Plan and indicated that parents who pay to have their children attend pay a tuition of \$75.00 a week x 36 weeks x 20 students gives \$54,000 in savings. If they have only one integrated pre-school, it is one-half that amount. Mr. Stycos commented that this doesn't factor in anything for the Special Services building program for another group of children. He understood the \$85,000 for what will go on at Horton School but asked if there were any savings estimated for the Special Services Program. Mr. Laliberte responded that there were savings in the total figure for the Special Services Program. If they begin with the integrated pre-school, the money they would be making would be on the integrated pre-school. It will take longer to build a program for behavior-disordered youngsters.

Mr. Scherza clarified that in the first year the district wouldn't be able to do all those things. The district had never planned to have all of these programs up and running for September. This has been said consistently. They wouldn't realize a savings that Mr. Stycos is alluding to, which they would in subsequent years because the start-up time wouldn't allow them to have it implemented for the upcoming year and realize that full amount.

Mr. Traficante asked how many students were attending out-of-district schools, and Mr. Laliberte indicated that currently there are ninety-one students who are in outside placements. Mr. Traficante asked what the possibility was of bringing some of those

ninety-one students who are out of district right now back in this system and start them off at the Special Services Center. Even if it is five or ten of them, they could save a substantial amount of money. Mr. Laliberte indicated that it could be done, but it must be done very carefully. These children have been placed there and have gotten use to the situation they are in. They can't just be plucked back. There has to be a transition period, and the district would have to start to work with those facilities to bring those children back. Mr. Traficante asked what the possibility would be of doing it mid year, and Mr. Laliberte responded that the district would have a better shot of doing it mid year in bringing back one self-contained class for behavior students. There would be between eight and ten students in the class. Mr. Traficante asked if the district could possibly utilize that savings in this budgetary process if they were to start it mid year, and Mr. Laliberte said that they could because as soon as they bring the child back, tuition stops. Mr. Traficante asked the approximate number of students if they could start it mid year, and Mr. Laliberte indicated that it could be ten students at \$35,000 each, cutting that amount in half because the program would be started in January. One-half of the \$350,000 could be utilized in this budget. Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Laliberte that this amount doesn't factor in staffing needs, and Mr. Laliberte said that it was factored in. When he gave the committee the range from \$85,000 to \$235,000, he subtracted the

cost of two teachers on step 3 with benefits, and he also included teacher assistants. It also included in the total figure the teachers for the pre-school and the teacher assistants in the pre-school. That was subtracted from what would be saved in the whole package. Mr. Lupino asked what the comfortable figure would be if they could accomplish this mid year, and Mrs. Ciarlo responded that Mr. Laliberte is making it a matter for the record that he is giving a reasonable estimate of what he thinks can be brought in.

Mr. Laliberte went on to say that it involves so many factors with regard to the number of children, etc. That is why he gave the range somewhere between \$85,320 and \$235,000. That takes all factors into consideration such as the number of children brought back, the types of programs built, the number of teachers needed, and the number of teacher assistants needed. Mr. Lupino indicated that the committee understands the \$85,320, and asked what the committee could potentially expect to save in addition to \$85,320. He knows that this is a working document, but he didn't want Mr. Laliberte to put a number in there that is uncomfortable or unobtainable. On the other hand, the \$85,320 is the lower end of the scale as noted by Mr. Traficante earlier. Mr. Laliberte asked for a few moments to do his calculations. Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Laliberte to be conservative in his calculations. He was sure that the district could realize some savings even if they started midyear.

Mr. Balducci continued with his explanation. He indicated that the

committee directed administration to go back and look at the usage accounts; namely, maintenance, utilities, and substitutes. Based on revisiting those, and in addition he was happy to see that the committee approved a contract for an energy conservation program.

Utilities is

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an area where he believes the district will save some money next year. He is recommending a cut in that area of approximately \$250,000. The company hired believes in a break-even point, and they are of the opinion that the district will be in the position of a positive cash flow which means that besides saving the amount of utilities they will need to save to pay them for the management fee and software costs, etc., the district will be able to save an additional approximate \$250,000 next year. He is going to take credit for that in next year's budget. Mr. Lupino noted that he had a figure on his sheet of \$325,000. Mr. Balducci said that he was correct and that the other area was substitutes. He was happy to report that this year the district is in a positive budget position regarding substitutes so he felt comfortable in removing some dollars in that area next year, approximately \$75,000. Again, that is a soft adjustment because last year the district ended with a \$160,000 deficit in this area. They were able to turn it around this year but no one knows what it will be like next year. He had budgeted approximately \$1 million so he felt comfortable reducing it by \$75,000 and monitoring it closely next

year. Those two areas are what is adding up to the \$325,000 budget adjustment. Mr. Lupino commented that the layoffs are still soft numbers because they don't know if the population is going to increase or be adjusted as such that they may have to call some of them back. It is hard numbers for possible number of bodies; the district may still need some of them back in some form during the year.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that many of these decisions are going to be based upon a gamble. She referred to the health care account question that was asked by a committee member at the work session, and Mr. Balducci commented that he wanted to wait on this account. He made a note on the reconciliation; he used the initials TBA (to be determined). He is leaving that as the final budget adjustment at this point.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 4 where administration was asked to look at annual orders. He stated that he was not recommending any cuts at this point. In his detailed response, he indicated that the district is still approximately \$200,000 less in spending annual order dollars as compared to where they were in fiscal 2001. Mr. Lupino asked what the total figure was for all annual orders, and Mr. Balducci said that it was \$1,096,000 which is a little higher than this year. He factored in an approximate 8% cost increase for the vendors' cost of living increase or to cover the cost of supplies next year.

Mr. Stycos referred back to the health care account and commented that Mr. Balducci in his response to the committee said that the rate increase was reduced and the number of new enrollees was also reduced. He asked Mr. Balducci to state why those decisions were made. Mr. Balducci responded that with regard to the rate increase when administration originally created next year's budget he used 11% for both Blue Cross and United and Dental, and he used a projected 10% increase for Blue Cross and United and he increased Delta Dental rates by 10%. That was based on what the rate increases were from 2004-2005 into 2005-2006. He was happy when the rate

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increases came in from all three carriers, and Blue Cross was approximately 1.8% and Delta Dental came in lower than originally projected. Mr. Stycos explained that this is when they sent the district a letter saying that they recommend this number. Mr. Balducci added that the district is self-insured so they provide the district the number for COBRA billing purposes and also for budgeting purposes. Administration feels comfortable because it is their underwriting department who looks at data even more than school administration and the provider felt comfortable with offering these rate increases. Every year he also projects a certain number of new enrollees coming on board. These are individuals who are not on the school department's plan who may be getting their plan from

outside the district, and during the open enrollment process decide that they want to come on board to the school department's plan. He usually ties that into the number of retirees he projects also. Because he reduced the number of retirees, he also reduced the number of new enrollees coming on board. Based on that, he was able to reduce that cost as well. Two factors added to the \$1.7 million reduction in the health care account.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 5 where administration was asked to look at the potential layoffs. The figure of \$180,000 is supported in detail with the memo he prepared to Mrs. Ciarlo identifying the bargaining groups and the potential savings. Mr. Lupino, in reference to this memo, indicated that he understood the secretary but had a question for Mr. Zisseron regarding the custodians. He asked Mr. Zisseron what the one position represented, and he responded that it represented two part-time positions that equaled one full-time position. Part-time employees receive single health care coverage. Mr. Lupino asked if the \$26,000 reflected the health care savings or if he had figured it into the health care, and Mr. Balducci responded that it was all rolled up in the health adjustment. This is pretty much salaries of approximately \$13,000 per year. Mr. Lupino asked if the CASA position was just salary and not the benefits. Mr. Balducci stated that in that case he increased it. He took credit for approximately 30% of associated benefit costs in the CASA figure because the district doesn't have a CASA member making \$117,000. There are some health savings in this as well. Mr.

Stycos asked Mr. Zisseron where those custodians were coming from, and Mr. Zisseron responded that they would come from probably Bain and Orchard Farms or Hope Highlands. He can't take custodians away from the smaller elementary schools because they run 8 and 4. Mr. Stycos asked where the secretary was coming from, and Mrs. Boyajian indicated that they were looking to combine two full-time positions that are presently at the Special Services Center into one full-time position. Mr. Lupino commented that a principal was hired with no principal experience so that person would start at one level. The district retired a principal at a higher step. He didn't see it reflected in these figures. Mr. Balducci said that Mr. Lupino was correct. As Mr. Votto had mentioned at the previous work session, all of the administrative turnover savings amounted to approximately \$47,000. They are not taking credit for it in the budget because administration is looking to hire someone for the ESL Coordinator's position. He would be shifting the savings from all these individual principal accounts and funding

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a new position. That is why it isn't being shown as a cut; he isn't taking it off the bottom line. Mr. Lupino asked if he was anticipating grant funding for the remainder of the salary because it was \$47,000, and Mr. Balducci stated that administration was hoping to do it that way. Mr. Lupino added that it is restoration of a position administration thought they could do without and found out they

could not. Mr. Lupino referred to the layoffs and asked if it included any library secretaries, and Mr. Balducci responded that it did not. They were originally shown as a budget cut in the eight-page document that brought the budget down to a variance of \$2.5 million. They have been removed from the budget as a recommended cut, and that is what brought them down to a \$2.5 million variance. These are additional cuts to help the committee get down well within \$2.5 to help balance the budget. Mr. Lupino also noted that they would not see middle school sports on this page, and Mr. Balducci said that they are not included here because they have been identified on a separate document.

Mr. Lupino noted that they have been identified but they have not been addressed. No committee member has voted to cut library secretaries nor voted to cut middle school sports.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 6, newly approved leaves of absence that the district did not take credit for as of yet in next year's budget. He went on to explain that Mr. Votto analyzed that, and he is of the opinion that the district can save an additional \$76,000. These are recent staff members who have asked for a paid leave of absence next year, and he has not taken credit for it in the budget. That is a recommended budget cut of \$76,000.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 7 which asked administration to look at the other staff turnover in the areas of secretaries, custodians,

etc. Mr. Votto again was of the opinion that there is little to no turnover in those areas. Administration is not recommending any additional cuts for budget savings at this point.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 8 which asked administration to take a re-visit to charter school enrollment. He did examine it, and he is recommending that the projected contribution from Cranston Public Schools next year for students attending the NEL/CPS Charter School be reduced by 20 students, and that will save the district approximately \$219,000. He is recommending this as a cut. Mr. Traficante clarified that they had projected 160 students in the forthcoming year. Based on secondary reform doing away with study halls, they had to fill many of the classrooms with electives; and based on their staff capacity, they wanted to keep the student teacher ratio at approximately 15 so they didn't want to exceed the 140 student level to maintain that type of private school atmosphere in a public school setting. That does not include other charter schools that are in the budget as well. Mr. Balducci added that if there are 15 students attending the CVS Highlander School in Providence this year, he assumed that there would be 15 next year. Until he receives the final enrollment data which will

probably come out in mid July, at that point if there are any savings and 10 students decide to go to the CVS Highlander School, he will

incorporate that during budget revision one. He will take the savings then, but at this point, he is assuming status quo for the external charter schools. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Traficante that in the twenty student reduction were those students notified already that they were coming to the charter school and are now being told that they cannot because they can elect to go to any charter school. The district does have some flexibility, however, they don't have the flexibility if the students elect to go to another charter school. If his child elects to go to a charter school, the district cannot deny him the right to go to a charter school. Mr. Traficante added that the district can't deny a student from going to a vocational school if he qualifies, and the same holds true for LaSalle or Bay View. There are eleven charter schools in the State of Rhode Island, and the students can select from all eleven. Mr. Traficante said that it is his hope to maintain the population level the same.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 9 where the committee asked administration to look at consolidation of any buildings. He referred to a memo from Mr. Scherza to the committee basically spelling out the issues regarding consolidation of any types of buildings. Based on his response, there is a zero budget adjustment associated with this area.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 10 where administration was asked to look at the possibility of switching full-time custodians to part-time custodians. He referred the committee to a memo written

by Mr. Zisseron to Mrs. Ciarlo. Based on that response, there is a zero next to that question. Mr. Stycos stated that he asked if a full-time custodian retired or left and then that eight-hour custodian was replaced with two four-hour custodians, the district would save a considerable amount of money. He asked if this was a possible way of spending money. He was not saying eliminate the four-hour people in the elementary schools but rather if there is a second shift at a high school there is a full-time custodian that person could be changed into two part-time custodians. Mr. Lupino commented that there is one full-time person who gets benefits, two part-timers who are also entitled to benefits. They pay half the premium, but they are entitled to full usage of the plan. The health care costs are in the usage of the plan. It could potentially cost more for two part-time custodians than it does for one full-time person. Mr. Stycos commented that the part-timer is entitled to the individual plan and the full-timer can get the family plan. At worst, the district would break even. Mr. Zisseron commented that if he took an eight-hour person and made it two four-hour people, the four-hour person gets single health coverage, and he believed he or she could get some other small benefits that are less than a full-timer. A full-time person gets family coverage. A part-timer's salary is approximately \$10,000 to \$11,000 a year, and a step one eight-hour person is approximately \$25,000 to \$26,000. Mr. Stycos thought it would be a \$5,000 savings. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Zisseron if he were having a problem having part-time people versus having full-time people. Mr. Zisseron remarked that he has had a problem hiring part-time people this year.

If it is going to

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cost \$22,000 or \$23,000 for two custodians versus a step one at \$25,000 or \$26,000 for one person, the benefits would be approximately \$12,000 to \$13,000 for health care versus single at \$7,000 which would be \$14,000 to \$15,000 for two. It is a minor savings and he has difficulty finding part-time workers.

Mr. Balducci responded to question No. 11 referring to elementary guidance. He noted the memo from Mr. Laliberte that provided the committee information regarding the elementary guidance area. Based on that, administration is recommending no cut at this time.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 12, and the committee had asked administration if the prior year's budget reserve of \$450,000 is still available, and he stated that it was available based on the school district receiving \$1.3 million from the City this year. As he mentioned in his response, it is available to use as a revenue source next year in balancing the budget, so he recommended taking credit for the \$450,000. Ms. Iannazzi asked Mr. Balducci if the committee at its last meeting voted to increase that amount, and Mr. Balducci responded that the committee did not increase the \$450,000 but he believed the 04-05 undesignated surplus of approximately \$70,000 to \$90,000 be used for future use. She asked if this amount could be

added to the \$450,000 or would it be needed this year. Mr. Balducci responded that it was too early to tell. He asked the committee to give him some latitude on that \$81,000. He is moving to close this fiscal year, but he can't give bottom line numbers yet. At a minimum of \$450,000, it is available to be used. Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Balducci that based on the numbers he was looking at now did he think there was a chance of the district generating a surplus in the current year to assist for next year. Mr. Balducci said that there would be, and he wouldn't receive the final figure until the audit is complete which is approximately November. He comes up with a preliminary figure once he closes the books, but there may be some audit adjustments that may increase it or decrease it. He would be guessing if he gave the committee a figure this evening.

Mr. Archetto asked to revert back to Question No. 9, consolidation of buildings. He stated that he read Mr. Scherza's memo, and he felt that the committee was locked into consolidating. The committee and administration have been thinking only about Special Services and Horton School. His contention is that it should be all the buildings throughout the city that the school district utilizes. He did some research recently, and Sanders School is a building that can possibly be consolidated. Also, if the Briggs Building were to close and be used for classrooms for Cranston East and the administration utilized Horton School or another building, he asked if there would be any savings there. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that Sanders School is a tiny school, but it runs a program that keeps at least twenty

behaviorally disordered middle and high school students in Cranston so it saves the district that tuition. They graduated three of these students, one from East and two from West this year. It is probably one of the finest programs the district has, and these are twenty tuitions anywhere from \$35,000 to

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\$50,000 the district would be paying out because many of these kids were out and are coming back. They have to be kept somewhat isolated. At one time there was a program at Cranston West called Project Phenix. They could never meet with success because they were too close to the main line where the rest of the kids were. This is separate, and this is where the Food Service Program is housed, and they also keep the students there who are being evaluated. Sanders is used, and she wants to be able to use the Special Services Center for the elementary component as well as for some of the pre-school students whom the district is paying tuitions for. This could be done in-house to save tuition fees and make good use of the real estate. Mr. Lupino noted that there was a sub-committee of the School Committee. It included himself, Mr. Traficante, and it was combined with members of the School Buildings Committee. Mrs. Greifer attended along with Council President Garabedian. They looked into, as part of the East project, to close Briggs. It was not economically feasible to close Briggs. It was not a school building that was sufficient in the school district that would handle bringing

together administration. The only way it could be done was to segment them all over the city if they used smaller buildings, and that is not the best way to do things. The idea was to bring more people together rather than to segment them more. Mrs. Greifer added that one of the downsides to the idea of splitting up central administration by placing them in various buildings was that there would be a greater need for secretarial staff. Instead of one secretary being able to serve a number of different areas of central administration, it would have to have separate secretaries for each little department that was spread around the city.

Mr. Stycos stated that the committee and administration are missing the central idea of this consolidation discussion. He added that he would offer an amendment later asking administration to look at this more closely and report back to the committee. What Mr. Archetto was saying is not to eliminate any programs but to reconfigure programs and use available space so that they don't need as many buildings to provide the same programs. That is the thrust and not when someone speaks about the Special Services Program he is not criticizing the program that is being proposed for there but rather saying space wise maybe it could go somewhere else. He will be offering an amendment asking the administration to look at that as a general question of using the space more efficiently and coming to the committee with options without mentioning that it is a specific building.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 13 which discussed the Lunch Program, and there budget is separate and apart from the school district's operating budget. It is true that they have been running deficits for the past few years, but that is an issue that administration has to deal with regarding the Food Service Program outside the parameters of the school district's general operating budget. Based on that, the question was not applicable to the committee's work this evening trying to reconcile this budget. Mr. Lupino noted that the district is carrying approximately \$800,000 owed to the district from Food Service, and that doesn't include this year. Mr. Balducci said that

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they are running behind this year as well. Mr. Lupino asked what mechanism was needed to direct the Food Service Director to correct that problem by asking him to increase the price of lunch. Mr. Balducci responded that it may not be as easy as just raising the price of lunch. Through the month of April, total gross sales are down about \$120,000 from one year to the next, and that is substantial. The meals are reasonable priced, but they need to find out what is behind the cause of the sales going down. He asked if it is a time issue, item availability issue, or the items being served. These are the issues administration has to look at. He didn't believe that by increasing the price of meals 25 cents or 50 cents would help substantially. He added that the Food Service Program does owe the

district the repayment of a loan from prior years, and this is part of the overall strategy of administration looking at the Food Service Program. They want to incorporate that as part of the recovery program of the Food Service Program. At this point, not knowing what that strategy will be and how much they can afford to pay in any given year, he had identified zero as a revenue adjustment. Mr. Lupino noted that in the original agreement that was with a prior school committee, he was on the School Committee when they began to organize or try to come up with a re-payment plan. He asked what they anticipated back then and how was it going to be paid back. Mr. Balducci responded that he was the architect of that plan. When he first came on board, Superintendent Ciarlo asked him to develop a re-payment plan to try to recoup that money back into the district. It was his understanding that they were given the loan with no payment schedule or interest due.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 14 regarding class size. Based on Mr. Laliberte's response to the question, administration is showing a zero budget adjustment at this time.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 16, teacher assistant movement and noted that Mr. Laliberte had provided the committee a response to that question. At this point, administration is not recommending any budget adjustment. Mrs. Ciarlo had asked Mr. Laliberte in responding to this question that those areas he is absolutely sure about in assigning a person until they have the final figures. They

want to use the resources they have and spread them out to the areas that are most in need. Grant funding supports three half time positions. Two of the teachers will be placed at Arlington School where class sizes in grades 1 and 3 are at or above cap. The third teacher has not been assigned yet. There are fifteen literacy teacher assistants who have not been assigned but will be enough to cover any Kindergarten or Grade 1 with more than twenty-two students. They will be placed according to class size and student needs. It is not just because a teacher has more than twenty-two students. It must be a class that is in need for it.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 17, bumping among the building aides, and indicated that it was a zero budget adjustment. Mrs. Ciarlo read the response from Mr.

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Votto that according to the CTA contract a building aide cannot transfer into an existing special education teacher aide position.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 18 where the committee asked administration to ask the textbook vendor if they would be willing to spread the costs associated with the textbooks over multi-years. Mr. Lupino noted that this is an “A” account as being reimbursed from the City so the district would get that much less reimbursement even

if the vendor allowed the district to do it. There will be no savings to the budget next year because it was cut entirely out of the budget. The only thing that would happen is that if the City is giving the district \$700,000 next year, one of those items being \$350,000 to purchase textbooks, if the vendor says that it will cost only \$200,000 then the district could use the \$150,000 elsewhere, whether it be in asset protection or plant/transportation capital. As long as the district stays within the \$700,000, the City is happy. It is no additional savings to the budget.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 19, consolidation of some of the bus routes, and Mr. Zisseron responded in a memo. Mr. Stycos stated to Mr. Zisseron that they had talked about the ridership and that he was going to look at the numbers to see if it was possible to consolidate any bus runs or reconfigure things to be more efficient. He asked if he found there was any chance of eliminating a bus run. Mr. Zisseron indicated that tomorrow morning he will be surveying the bus run. He has the new numbers for next year with the Kindergarten students and the other students moving up. There are some runs that are heavy that he will split up. He has to come up with three busses for the closing of Horton, and he is determined not to put on additional buses. Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Zisseron to let the committee know when he is done. Mr. Archetto referred to the response on question No. 19 and asked Mr. Zisseron if he had made a decision to cut the LaSalle bus. Mr. Zisseron responded that this has been an ongoing study with Mr. Stycos, RIPTA, and himself. He

may be able to cut a bus that picks up the eastern section meaning Edgewood, Dutemple, Garden City, Eden Park, Arlington, and Gladstone areas. The district may be able to save \$15,000. It will be the committee's decision. At a previous work session, he told the committee that they should think long and hard about this decision. They will be taking students who are 11, 12, and 13 years old and putting them on Park Avenue or Pontiac Avenue at 6:50 a.m. and they will be going into downtown Providence to take a bus to LaSalle.

Mr. Balducci referred to question No. 20, sale of Special Services Building. In his response to Mrs. Ciarlo, he stated that if the building was no longer used for school purposes, at a minimum the savings would be \$16,179 versus the projected full year budget savings of approximately \$127,320 by continuing to use this building.

Mr. Balducci referred to question 21 which asked administration to look at the number of special education directors within the district. Mr. Laliberte provided a response to that, and based on the response, administration is recommending no budget adjustment at

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this time. Mrs. Ciarlo added that, if anything, administration may have to add a special education director if the district gets many more outside students to be in compliance.

Mr. Balducci stated that they started off with a variance of \$2.5 million. Based on administration looking at different areas, they were able to cut approximately \$1.3 million, but again the district is still left with a budget shortfall of approximately \$1.2 million. It doesn't take into consideration any other adjustments the committee would like to make based on the original cut list that was presented to the committee a few nights ago. So, this number may change.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Balducci if the \$1.2 million includes middle school sports and the library clerks. Mr. Balducci said that they are included. Administration started with a variance of \$2.5 million which had already recommended middle school sports and library aides. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that the committee needed to know that it would be about \$900,000 if they weren't talking about two areas they wanted to put back in; namely, middle school sports and the library aides. Mr. Lupino corrected Mrs. Ciarlo and stated that it is \$99,000 for middle school sports and approximately \$58,000 for library aides. Mr. Balducci added that they would be adding approximately \$150,000 to this \$1.2 million if the committee decides to bring those two areas back. The deficit will just grow.

Mr. Laliberte asked to give the numbers to the committee. He stated that if he took the integrated pre-school and cut it in half so that he would have one program instead of two, that would save approximately \$81,000. If he brings back 8 special education students in outside placements that have emotional or behavioral

needs, he can save another \$280,000. He has to subtract from that \$106,000 approximately for the teacher and the teacher assistant, and then he has to subtract another \$53,000 because the class for the behavior disordered would not begin until January so he has to cut that in half again and subtract another \$53,000. That would give him a profit in the end of \$200,000. He is not comfortable telling the committee that they can cut it by \$200,000. He would rather stick to what they had originally said that was somewhere in the range of \$85,000 because that gives some flexibility in the number of students paying tuition, the number of students they need to place in the integrated pre-school, and the number of students they can draw back. Mr. Traficante stated to Mr. Laliberte that he could understand where he was coming from. Based on the situation, he didn't think the committee had a choice but to encourage Mr. Laliberte and his department to pursue the integrated program as well as the special education program, and he felt he didn't have a choice but to add that \$200,000 into the number tonight. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Traficante that under question No. 1 the committee change that number to \$200,000; and Mr. Traficante commented that it would be his suggestion.

Mr. Lupino turned the Chair over to Mr. Palumbo.

Mr. Lupino moved to remove from the cut list the amount of approximately \$99,000 for middle school sports and the approximately \$50,000 for the library secretaries.

Mr. Stycos stated that he didn't think the committee should go in that direction with regard to procedure. The committee has the budget book which includes middle school sports and the library aides, and the committee should make cuts out of this book. If someone wants to come forward and propose cutting middle school sports, then they should do that. If they want to cut the library aides, they should do that. Right now they are in the budget. The committee has to subtract things to get down to the magic number. Mr. Lupino noted that there is a discrepancy of \$3.5 million without taking into consideration any cuts, his reconciliation sheet or the cut list. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Balducci how many of the cuts he proposed the committee could save from question No.'s 1 through 21. She asked what they amounted to. If the committee, for whatever reason, decided to accept them before doing any other adding back, what would the savings be. Mr. Balducci responded that if they added additional savings from question No. 1, it would be \$1.5 million in total. Mrs. Ciarlo added that the answers to those questions would generate \$1.5 million which if it were taken off the \$1.5 would leave about \$1 million. She asked if that includes middle school sports, and Mr. Balducci responded that it includes the elimination of middle school sports and the elimination of library clerks. Mrs. Ciarlo told the committee that these were the questions they had. If they agree

to those particular savings, then they could act upon the savings and then turn around and restore some things if they wish. At least, they would have gotten down close to what is the bottom line which is zero.

Ms. Iannazzi clarified Mr. Stycos's earlier comment. If the committee wanted to start from the manner in which the Superintendent is recommending, someone has to move the administration's cut list. Mr. Traficante commented that the committee has to go back to Mr. Balducci's original cut list and go line by line and make those cuts. Mrs. Greifer suggested that it be done in two stages, the original cut list and then the additional savings list that the committee received tonight.

Mrs. Greifer moved to adopt the original Cranston Public Schools' 2006-2007 Adopted Budget Proposed Cuts dated June 14, 2006.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion

Mr. Traficante stated that he was under the impression that the committee would go line by line. If they wanted to add something back in, they could do it through a motion as well. He referred to the first page, new personnel, where Mr. Balducci is recommending a \$200,000 cut. He was going to make a motion to accept that proposed cut. In terms of a motion, the committee would vote on that and then go to the next item, etc.

Mrs. Greifer withdrew her motion, and Mr. Palumbo withdrew his second.

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Mr. Stycos moved to reduce the health care as recommended by the school administration by \$1,752,760.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved to cut \$200,0000 under new personnel, that being the teacher assistant positions that the committee added in the budget process.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that all the items marked “A” be removed from the School Committee budget because they are going to be covered by the City Council through a separate process.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Balducci stated that the total of the “A” items is approximately \$714,000.

Mr. Archetto asked if middle school sports and the library aides were marked “A”, and Mr. Lupino indicated that they were not. The items marked “A” are the items the City will fund out of the capital budget such as buses, textbooks, and asset protection.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos stated that this motion was a little bit off the easy path. He indicated that on page 2 of the adopted budget proposed cuts, at the bottom of the page there is a series of building maintenance accounts. His proposal would be to level fund those accounts based on last year’s remaining balance. If one looks at this list and compares remaining balance 2005-2006, the third column of numbers, if one compared that column to the adopted budget 2006-2007 or the fifth column, in comparing those two columns, there is a \$65,500 higher amount under the adopted budget.

Mr. Stycos moved to level fund those accounts by \$65,500.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to second the motion.

Mr. Stycos referred to “plant glazing”, under remaining balance for

the current year, it is \$6,000 and under adopted budget, it is \$8,000. His amendment would be to turn the

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\$8,000 into \$6,000. Going all the way down the line adding up those accounts in the plant accounts, including the first two on the next page, there is a \$65,500 difference.

Mr. Palumbo asked Mr. Balducci why he raised those accounts, and Mr. Balducci said that he looked at the prior year 2004-2005 actuals. Not having completed this fiscal year, they looked at the most completed fiscal year to see what was actually spent. In looking at all those accounts and in consultation with Mr. Zisseron, they found they needed to increase those line items in his area. In the money that was budgeted this year, Mr. Stycos referred to one of the columns, 2005-2006, and they didn't have enough money in those accounts as originally budgeted. During the budget revision process, they had to add approximately over \$100,000 in total to all of the plant/transportation maintenance related accounts. He told the committee that they can go through the exercise tonight, but it might be an area they will be revisiting late winter early spring again. He knows the task that the committee is under this evening, but it is either "pay me now or pay me later." It may not be a realistic cut. Mr.

Palumbo asked Mr. Zisseron for his opinion, and he stated that every year the committee is cutting plant; and every year the buildings get older and there are more problems and more maintenance. Obviously, he doesn't want to see cuts, but he is also realistic after thirty plus years that if the committee brings it back to level funding, there are budget revisions; and sometimes Mr. Balducci works great magic with finding additional funds during the year. If it will help the budget to level fund, he asked that the committee not drive him nuts when he comes in with a budget revision asking for more money in the accounts.

Mrs. Greifer asked to go over this information one more time so that she would better understand exactly which items the committee was talking about. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Stycos to read the category of each one so that it is in the record so that there is no question.

Mr. Stycos stated that this list does not include the "A" items because the committee just removed the "A" items.

Plant Glazing would be cut from \$8,000 to \$6,000

Plant Painting, Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$7,500 to \$5,000

Plant Plumbing, Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$70,000 to \$65,000

Plant Equipment Service Outside Purchase Service would be cut from \$25,000 to \$20,000

Plant Plumbing Purchase Service would be cut from \$14,000 to \$8,000

Plant Supplies and Materials – no change

Plant Vehicle Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$15,000 to \$10,000

Plant Carpentry Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$32,000 to \$30,000

Plant Contract Work Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$25,000 to \$20,000

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Plant Electrical Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$65,000 to \$60,000

Plant Equipment Supplies and Materials would be cut from \$12,000 to \$10,000

Plant Contract Work Purchase Services would be cut from \$175,000 to \$150,000

Plant Electrical Purchase Services – no change

Plant Equipment Repair Purchase Services would be cut from \$16,000 to \$15,000

Mr. Stycos stated that he thought the total was \$65,500.

Mr. Balducci stated that Mr. Stycos missed Transportation Special Ed Tires. Mr. Stycos responded that he didn't want to include the tires.

Mr. Balducci stated that the amount is \$65,500.

Mr. Zisseron stated that when he does his budget, he gets the figure from the year before as to the actual expenditures. While still going through the budget process, he is spending that year's plus additional money because of inflation, etc. He asked the committee to keep in mind that he had no problem with what they were doing, but he would be back. He hopes they are as kind to him when he comes back as he is being agreeable with them tonight.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos referred to page 5 of the budget cut list.

Mr. Stycos moved to reduce the NEASC budget for Cranston High School East by \$27,850.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Archetto opposed.

Mr. Stycos referred to the budget reconciliation work sheet.

Mr. Stycos moved that because of the Horton Plan for the pre-K Program and the elementary special ed programs that the committee realize a \$200,000 savings and ask administration to assign to the

proper accounts.

Ms. Iannazzi seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Lupino and Mr. Palumbo opposed.

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Mr. Stycos moved that the Usage Accounts which are the Substitute Accounts and the Utility Accounts be reduced according to the administration's recommendation by \$325,000.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that the Layoffs described by the administration, the three positions, for savings of \$180,841 be approved by the committee.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that a separate item be added to the budget for savings due to staff approved for leave, and that this amount be a savings of \$76,763.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that the line item that indicates Charter School Tuitions be reduced by \$219,380 as recommended by the administration.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that the line item in the revenue portion of the budget, Budget Reserve, be increased to \$450,000 as recommended by the administration.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Stycos if he wished to add to that figure the \$81,000. Mr. Stycos responded that he was going to do that next.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos moved that the committee add to the Budget Reserve line item \$81,479 which represents the surplus as indicated on the audit of the 2004-2005 school year.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

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Mr. Lupino noted that this was over the advice of the Business Director who felt this should not be done at this time.

This Amendment was adopted with Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino, and Mr. Palumbo opposed.

Mr. Lupino stated the amended amounts thus far:

\$1,752,760 – (Health Care)

\$200,000 – (New Personnel)

\$714,000 (A) Accounts

\$65,500 (Total of all others)

\$27,850 (NEASC – East)

\$200,000 (Horton Plan)

\$325,000 (Usage Accounts)

\$180,841 (Layoffs)

\$76,763 (Staff from Leave)

\$219,380 (Charter School Drop in Enrollment)

\$450,000 (Budget Reserve)

\$81,479 (Prior Year's Surplus)

\$4,294,788 - Total

Mr. Balducci said that he was working off the originally adopted budget of \$129 million that the committee adopted. The budget will now be down to \$125,407,368.

Mr. Traficante noted that Mr. Balducci had to add the state figure as well.

Mr. Balducci stated that including the state aid as identified in the memo prepared on top of the original cut list of approximately \$327,000 that brings it down to a budget variance of \$1,208,690 that the committee still has to deal with.

Mr. Lupino called for a five-minute recess at 9:22 p.m.

Mr. Lupino reconvened the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked at this point how much more had to be found in order to bring this down to zero. Mr. Balducci responded that the

amount is \$1,208,690.

Mr. Palumbo asked Mr. Balducci where he would suggest taking the money from at this point. Mr. Balducci responded that he was not at that position yet. There are still some budget adjustments coming his way. If the committee can't get down to zero with a few more budget adjustments, his recommendation would be to take it out of the Health

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Account and leave it up to the administration to worry about that area as they get into the fiscal year. That goes back to his reconciliation sheet, and that is why he left that area to be determined. At some point, the committee and administration will have to balance this budget. He is hoping to get it down as low as possible, and then whatever that figure is, that would be the area they would make it to. All of the cuts have not been discussed this evening. Mrs. Ciarlo referred to questions No. 1 through 21, that administration answered and the ones that Mr. Stycos had done, and she asked if there were any questions administration answered with reference to revenue sources that were not part of the votes just taken. Mr. Balducci stated that the committee voted on all of the cuts listed on the sheet plus some that were identified in the original cut sheet. Mr. Lupino mentioned when the committee had to reconcile with the City and were desperate to get the extra \$1 million that they eventually did get

from them, Mr. Balducci worked very closely with B & E Consulting as he had in other situations when they had the Caruolo Action. He asked Mr. Balducci that when they came in last year were there any areas that the firm went right to that the committee might be able to identify now that they were particularly interested in. Mr. Balducci responded that B & E had the luxury of the school district being ten months into the fiscal year. A lot of the actual expenditures were actually hitting the books. They looked at health care only because it is worth \$20 million to the budget. They looked at the salary accounts because that is a \$70 million price tag. They looked at certified pension, special education tuitions, and areas where a lot of money is spent. Benefits in total are \$30 million. They don't look at supplies and materials because by then it is April, and the district has spent most of the supply budget.

Mr. Traficante referred to page 7 of the proposed cuts and asked if there were additional cuts on this page such as guidance counselors secondary personnel, and Mr. Balducci responded that this is a cut that administration is proposing; but it has not been discussed yet. The committee hasn't got that far into the cut list. Ms. Iannazzi noted that the committee skipped over two items on page 7. They did not add money to the budget for retirees or on page 8 didn't add money for the increase in liability insurance.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to add \$204,732 for retirees.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos commented that the committee budgeted on 20 retirees and have 8. He asked if there was any prospect of getting more or was it over by now. Mr. Balducci responded that it is done. School ended today, and unless someone makes a decision during the summer, it is done. Mrs. Ciarlo added that there may be a few stragglers where something happens during the summer that they would have to move out of state, but it is few and far between. Mr. Balducci added that it is approximately \$17,000 savings per retiree.

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This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to add \$56,410 in the Liability Insurance Account.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Balducci stated that the committee still had to deal with \$1,469,832.

Ms. Iannazzi moved that on page 7 of the cut list to reduce the

Teachers Returning from Leave Account by an additional \$4,812.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Palumbo opposed.

Mr. Stycos moved that the Superintendent shall prepare a report presenting possible ways to consolidate school programs into fewer buildings to utilize under-used space and to save money. This report will be presented to the School Committee for review by August 15th.

Mr. Scherza responded that it wasn't possible to have this report done by that date. Mr. Scherza stated that administration would try to get it completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Stycos stated that the report would be due by September 1st.

Ms. Iannazzi seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Lupino and Mr. Palumbo opposed.

Mr. Traficante moved that on page 7 under Secondary School Personnel there be a reduction of \$282,115.

Mr. Stycos seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos asked if this represents 1.5 positions in each high school. Mr. Balducci responded that it originally represented 7.5 positions, but then they have to accommodate 3 elementary positions, 1 special education position, and a .5 math coach so it is the cutting of 3 positions which are at the high school. The 7.5 are at the high school, there are 3 elementary teachers, and a special education teacher who will probably be at Bain. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that the math coach is at the middle school. Mr. Balducci further explained that they will be cutting 7.5 positions which is a

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combination at both East and West., but they will have to take the savings from those 7.5 positions and hire 3 elementary teachers, 1 special education teacher, and a .5 math coach. Mr. Stycos commented that the secondary schools would lose 7.5 positions, but the system would lose a net of 3. Mr. Balducci added that this is the \$200,000 plus savings. Mr. Stycos stated that it might come to the point when he would vote for this, but right now he is hesitant to cut positions at the secondary schools because the number of students is going up. Because of high school reform, the district has to eliminate study halls so he could not support this right now. If it comes back later in the evening, he might be able to support it.

Mr. Lupino stated that he could not support this amendment because the district hasn't received the NEASC Report for Cranston East yet, and he has no indication that they might say there is not enough staff there. One of their recommendations for the future might be to add staff so he would be very hesitant to vote on this right now. The school doesn't know if it will be on probation or not. The committee has received no indication from the administration concerning what the preliminary report is at Cranston East, and he is fearful that they will look at that program and say there is a need for staff there.

Mr. Archetto asked if the special education teacher would be assigned to Bain, and Mr. Balducci said that administration is looking to hire one special education teacher district wide, and based on the need, the position will be placed at Bain Middle School. Mr. Archetto asked how many positions would be lost at Cranston East, and Mr. Balducci said that there is a combination of 7.5 positions at Cranston East and Cranston West. He believed that West was losing 4.8 positions, and the balance is at Cranston East. To clarify, Mr. Balducci added that if the committee doesn't cut the 7.5 positions, they will have to add to the bottom line the cost of 3 elementary teachers, 1 special education teacher, and a .5 math coach if that is the direction the committee wants to go. From what he is hearing, the committee doesn't want to cut the 7.5 positions so he can't use those savings to help fund the 4.5 positions. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that the committee can always add later on if they find they are in need. The students are still selecting classes, so administration doesn't

know what the class sizes will be at the high schools. They know this will happen for about one more year, and then the population is going to begin to decrease at the high school level. She suggested that the committee go with the cut now. If they have to restore a special education position or something else with another position at the high school, they can address it at the time. Administration has always found that come September there is a class of 36 students which is unacceptable, and they have had to make some changes; and they may have to make them again. She asked them not to anticipate it before it happens.

Mrs. Greifer stated that with regard to the NEASC accreditation, in talking with the people at Cranston East, after going through the process they feel that East will get hit by NEASC on the facilities. Pretty much everywhere else the school is in good shape. They are not really worried about it.

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This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Lupino and Mr. Stycos opposed.

Mr. Stycos moved to cut the money the Superintendent had proposed for library book collection improvement in the amount of \$36,000. He proposed that the committee reduce the budget by this \$36,000.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos stated that he was proposing this because what Ms. Bryan said the other night, he doesn't want to cut the library aides. He felt that the committee could cut the book budget one year and live through it and do something with books next year. The committee has to make cuts in a lot of areas, and for a library cut, this is the easiest one in the library area.

Mr. Palumbo felt that Mr. Stycos was going wild. He has put many things forward, and everyone has voted on them to cut a number of things knowing that there will be problems later on. He went along with many of them because the district is in tough shape. One doesn't start cutting library books. He asked what kind of an educator would cut library books. There are other things to be cut, and library books are a key part of the school. He asked the committee what was wrong with them to allow someone to make comments like that. Library books should never be cut, and Mr. Stycos should know better. Mrs. Ciarlo suggested that for one year the district could find a way of dealing without the library clerks. Certainly, they need library books, and she wouldn't want to explain to the city that she is using budget money for personnel rather than the books which is closer to the kids. The district will circulate old books for another year just because they want to circulate old books, but the chance of getting new books, they will put off for another year. The committee has put it off for too many years, and as much

as she has respect for Ms. Bryan, she doesn't believe that the committee should not buy the books. Library clerks should be treated as a separate matter.

Mr. Archetto stated that the committee is in a very tough situation. According to his figures, the district is about \$1 million in the hole. He told Mr. Palumbo that the committee has to make some very difficult choices. Had the committee been more rigorous in its contract negotiations, it is possible that the committee wouldn't be in this situation right now. In the City, there is a library on Sockanosset Cross Road. The Mayor funds it with up-to-date library books. Each city has a library, and there is one at each college. Students do have access, maybe not to the Cranston East library if the committee doesn't fund textbooks at \$36,000; but there is a city library and he was sure the students could get there. There are also subsidiary libraries in the City of Cranston. For one year, the district could take the hit and not purchase \$36,000 worth of library books. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that they are for elementary and not for middle school and high school. The collection was so poor at the elementary level.

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Mr. Stycos explained that this amendment would level fund the committee's purchases of library books. It would take out the additional money that the Superintendent proposed. There would still be the same money for library books if this passed that they had this

year. Mr. Balducci added that it would be the same annual appropriation. Some have indicated that it is not enough, and he believed this was the reason they entered into this program where they tried to budget some additional money each year over multi-years to try to enhance the library materials. Mr. Stycos commented that there would still be some money for library books. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Balducci if he knew what the percentage was. Ms. Bryan stated that there is a line item for each school that is level funded from last year. The \$36,000 is a supplement to do catch-up. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Ms. Bryan how much a school such as Arlington would get for elementary library books. Ms. Bryan responded that the average price of a hard cover book is \$18. Mrs. Ciarlo asked how many books they would have money to buy in the course of one year, and Mr. Balducci responded that their budget is \$748 for next year for Arlington School. Ms. Bryan indicated that she originally budgeted \$8.50 per child, and Arlington has 129 children. Mrs. Ciarlo stated to Ms. Bryan that the bottom line is that she doesn't have enough money given that it is \$18.00 per student to be able to do that. That is what the \$36,000 over a three-year period--\$36,000 next year and \$36,000 the following year—was going to do to try to replenish the very poor collection the district has at the elementary level.

Mr. Lupino stated that the committee was getting into an area where it was going to start to hurt. The committee knows that they have to touch on every area, and if the committee were to vote on this, they would not be totally cutting out library books. The other side of that

would be to cut library aides which would diminish the use of the library anyway so that the books being purchased wouldn't get to the kids anyway. He believed that the real situation is that the children can utilize the library if there is someone there who can teach them and not just stamping books. Mrs. Ciarlo suggested that the schools get volunteers for one year, too.

This Amendment failed with Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Traficante opposed.

Mr. Stycos referred to the technology budgets or the computer budgets and noted that there seemed to be four new computer accounts—elementary account, middle school computer account, high school computer account, and a general account. He asked if those are all for new equipment. Mr. Balducci responded that those are some of the accounts his office uses to place the reserve accounts as part of the annual order. He budgets \$1 million and gives out \$75,000 and keeps \$250,000. They were put into those types of accounts because in the past it was where that money seemed to go. He kept the same account title. He directed the committee to page 4 of the Executive Summary of the budget document. He is budgeting \$189,000 for the purchase of new computer labs next year which are in dire straights and need to be replaced. He is not

recommending that it be cut, but if the committee is talking about technology, it is \$189,000, and the labs are identified where they will be spending that money. Mr. Stycos stated that the approximate \$25,000 that is in the high school/middle school those are from the annual order, and Mr. Balducci said that he was correct. Mr. Stycos further commented that the money allocated just for computers is \$189,000 district wide. Mrs. Ciarlo asked how much of that money involves the implementation of School Max and that there must be a computer on every teacher's desk as a long-range goal for the district. It was started at the high schools, and she asked how far along the district is with this goal. They don't need to have high-powered computers so they are trying to take some of the low-end computers that have been around to serve the purpose for School Max. There clearly aren't enough computers for the teachers to be able to implement School Max as it stands right now. Mr. Balducci said that the district is trying to phase it in. Mrs. Ciarlo said that they would take computers that are five years old and recycle them for School Max. Mr. Balducci said that the teachers need them in order to take attendance, and they don't need the bells and whistles on the computers.

Mr. Stycos indicated that he would back off this item for now.

Mr. Stycos stated that he believed a reasonable estimate if the district closed a second week at Christmas was \$13,000. The

proposed cuts for one month would save \$52,000. Mr. Balducci indicated that he believed it was one of the identified cuts for this fiscal year that the committee and administration talked about last year.

Mr. Stycos moved to have a two-week shutdown at Christmas instead of one week and that by doing that the district would realize \$13,000 in savings on energy according to the administration estimate.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Stycos where he proposed adding on that time.

There was no second to this motion.

Mr. Archetto referred to page 5 of the budget, Pupil Activity Programs, \$198,000. He asked what programs this referred to. Mr. Balducci explained that the \$198,000 are the stipends paid to the activity advisors at the high schools and middle schools. They would be the drama coach, the band coach, etc. They are stipend amounts paid to a staff member who oversees the program during the year.

Ms. Iannazzi indicated to Mr. Balducci that earlier he had said there was approximately \$47,000 in savings the district is holding on to for the ESL Coordinator. She asked administration if it was possible to hold off with that hiring and possibly try to save that \$47,000. Mr. Scherza responded that this has gotten administration into some headaches this year. They thought they could get away with it, but

right now they need

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someone with the certification as well who can sign off on testing and assessments and work with the State. Right now the district is out of compliance. The district has to do it now. Ms. Iannazzi asked if the district could get by with what they are using right now, and Mr. Scherza responded that they thought they could get by last year; and it didn't work.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Balducci for the current figure. Mr. Balducci responded that the figure was \$1,182,905.

Ms. Iannazzi indicated to Mr. Laliberte that she knows that administration is not recommending making any cuts to the special education directors, but if they just go with the minimum staffing as required by the state in the position of one director and two assistant directors and asked how much that would save. Mr. Laliberte responded that he didn't believe there would be any savings because right now there are three directors, but one of the directors is not fully a special education director. She oversees the pre-school and Kindergarten program as well as the integrated pre-school in the special education program. She is not fully a special education director, but she is truly the first person in that area who joins general and special education. There are two special education directors who

each have a side of the city; and they are involved in placing all children in specialized programs and they oversee the coordinators who are looking at the youngsters in outside programs. He couldn't see how the district could do with less right now.

Mr. Palumbo commented that the committee has worked this budget over pretty well. He asked Mr. Balducci to come up with whatever the committee needs in order to balance this budget. Mr. Balducci responded that the budget discrepancy is \$1,182,000. He commented that administration has identified all of the areas and has received some assistance from the committee this evening to get this number down. As he mentioned earlier, the committee has to balance the budget. At this point, he would recommend using the Health Account, and administration will make every effort to try to absorb that deficit during the year. If they cannot, they will have to seek alternatives during the year.

Mr. Palumbo moved to accept Mr. Balducci's statement to balance the budget.

Mr. Balducci commented that he gave the committee credit for leaving middle school sports in and teacher aides in as well as the four teacher assistants that was one of the recommendations to be eliminated.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos stated that he would be opposed to this. He felt that this Health Account has already been trimmed, and the estimate the committee is using which he supported

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from Blue Cross of 1.8% is a really tight increase, and it flies in the face of everything he as seen in the medical industry. To cut it an additional \$1.3 million would mean that the committee would spend less on health care next year than they are going to spend this year. That just seems impossible.

Mr. Palumbo stated that looking at this cut list Mr. Stycos is saying that the committee can't cut the health account that much. The committee has cut all of these accounts more than they should have been cut. It is not a question that they should not be cutting them that much, they have to cut it at that level because the committee won't balance its budget without doing that. The committee can work all they want to save money here and there and get it up to \$800,000, but they are still not balancing the budget. The committee has been taking all of these small amounts and putting them together and adding a few back in, and they are getting nowhere. Cutting library books shows how desperate the committee is getting in terms of what they are doing. Either say that they are going to set up a good system for the kids in Cranston for education or not. If Mr. Stycos

wants to make all these small cuts which puts the district in the hole, they will be in trouble. Don't say that one thing can't be cut but another can. The only ones that can't be cut are those that are dictated by law. Some of the cuts are good, but much of it shows that the committee is cutting beyond where they should.

Mr. Traficante commented that Mr. Stycos is correct that the committee has to reconcile this budget, and there is no question that if the committee continues to pick away items that will impact upon the kids, they will be dismantling the basic foundation upon which this system is considered a quality system. He will vote in favor of cutting the remaining money from Health Care with the hope that during the course of this year they can make it up in a variety of areas. He doesn't want to see the committee dismantling libraries, school orders, etc. because that is what the committee will have to do. Middle school sports will have to be on the chopping block as an example. He doesn't disagree with what Mr. Stycos is saying, but the bottom line is that if the committee wants to maintain a quality system, they can't just pick away at those things that impact the kids in the classroom.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi and Mr. Stycos opposed.

Mrs. Ciarlo reminded the committee that last spring when they had Bacon & Edge come in to do the numbers that at the time the Mayor

offered to have Bacon & Edge come back in when the committee had their new budget and do the same thing. At the time, the money had not been released which was part of the \$1.3 that the district got and some other money. That money has been released, and she thought it would be important to ask to have an outside agency looking at the budget now and reviewing it to determine if it has been done accurately. Since it was an offer, the district hasn't

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gone back because the money hadn't been released. It has been released now, and it might be something the committee would like to consider.

Mr. Archetto referred to the questions answered by administration and asked if the committee received an answer to question No. 22. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that No. 22 was supposed to be discussed in Executive Session. The secretary indicated that the answer was noted on the question sheet under question No. 22. Mrs. Ciarlo asked the committee if they wished to discuss this question at the June 29th meeting because Mr. Stycos had made the suggestion that before the administration went forward there should be a discussion with the committee to determine what they might want to do. With everything that went on tonight, it wasn't done.

Mr. Balducci stated that the newly adjusted budget amount aligning it to the City adopted budget including additional state aid is \$124,198,678.

This Resolution as amended was adopted Mr. Archetto and Mr. Stycos opposed.

X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

There were no speakers on non-agenda items.

XII. Announcement of Future Meetings

The next School Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, June 29th, at Twelve Noon in the Briggs Building Reed Conference Room.

XIII. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

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**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at
10:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Anthony J. Lupino
Clerk**

BUSINESS 3172

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS / COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENTS**

Whenever a collective bargaining agreement or other employee wage and benefit agreement is proposed, the Superintendent shall present

a financial impact analysis for each fiscal year of the proposed bargaining agreement prior to consideration and vote for ratification. The impact analysis and terms of the agreement must be made public and placed on the school department's website at least 72 hours prior to a vote for ratification.

Policy Adopted: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No.: CRANSTON, RI